4. सूचना कुंओं से संग्रहण किए गए चट्टान तथा कोयले के नमूनों की प्रयोगशाला में जांच ;

5. पृष्ठभूमि प्रि-टेस्ट पैरामीटरों को प्राप्त किए जाने के लिए ध्वनिक अध्ययनों को शुरू किया जाना ;

6. अनुसंधान एवं विकास पायलट परियोजना के लिए अपेक्षित सतही सुविधाओं तथा बड़े उपकरणों का विनिर्दिष्टीकरण ।

U.S. proposal for a Nuclear Free Sub-continent

*248. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Secretary of State for International Security had forwarded certain proposals for Inlo-Pak bilateral understandig on a nuclear weapon free sub-continent;

(b) if so, whether India reacted favouraby to such proposals as widely reported in the Press;

(c) what is the manner in which these proposals differ substantially from the Pak-Bangladesh Resolution on nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia, which was opposed by India but supported by the Soviet Union; and

(d) whether India's different approach to the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union was guided in any way by India's expectations of economic assistance from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) US Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs Mr. Bartholomew during his visit to Delhi last month made certain suggestions relating to nuclear and security issues in South Asia. These relate to confidence building measures in the nuclear and conventional field and not to the issue of a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia. No decision has been taken on the matter and our position will continue to conform to India's national interests.

Improvement of National Highways in Karnataka

*249. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a what are the norms set for declaring existing highways as national highways;

(b) what is the length of national highways in kilometres, statewise;

(c) what are the details of the proposals received from Karnataka for taking up national highways; and

(d) what efforts have been made by the Central Government to improve the national highway position in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The National Highways are declared keeping in view the following guideines/norms besides the availability of resuorces, recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC), *inter se* priorities attached to each individual road on an all India basis, proximity of other National Highways and various proposals received from the State Governments:—

(i) roads which run through the length and breadth of the country;

(ii) roads connecting adjacent countries;

(iii) roads connecting State capitals;

(iv) roads connecting major Ports and important industrial or tourist centres;